

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

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AMEMBASSY ATHENS

UNCLAS THESSALONIKI 0357

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TAGS: BEXP, GR

SUBJECT: MAJOR EXPORT PROJECTS PROGRAM

REF: STATE A-867 OF 02/10/75

1. FOLLOWING IS BRIEF STATUS REPORT ON THESSALONIKI WATER PROJECT PROVIDED TO CONGEN OFFICER JUNE 5 BY PRESIDENT OF THESSALONIKI WATER ORGANIZATION DAMIANOS MICHAEL. WHILE AT PRESENT PROJECT INVOLVES LIMITED EXPORT POTENTIAL FOR US FIRMS, DETAILS BELOW MAY BE USEFUL IN LIGHT OF RECENT PUBLICITY GIVEN TO PROJECT AND INQUIRIES FROM SEVERAL US FIRMS.

2. CURRENT THESSALONIKI WATER SUPPLY OF 120,000 CU. METERS PER DAY IS PRIMARILY PROVIDED BY APPROX 35 WELLS IN KALOHORI/SINDOS AREA OUTSIDE CITY. DAILY INDUSTRIAL AND CONSUMER REQUIREMENT FOR GREATER THESSALONIKI IS APPROX 180,000 CU. METERS PER DAY WITH ANNUAL INCREASE OF 7-8 PER CENT. GIVEN INADEQUATE SUPPLY AND POLITICAL PROBLEM OF RECURENT WATER SHORTAGE DURING SUMMER MONTHS, GOG RECENTLY APPROVED 16-MONTH CONTRACT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF PIPE NETWORK TO DRAW APPROX 220,000 CU. METERS PER DAY FROM ARAVYSSOS AND A XIOS WELLS. PROJECT TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL CONTRACTORS AND OFFERS LITTLE SCOPE FOR FOREIGN PARTICIPATION,
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ACCORDING TO MICHAEL.

3. AT SAME TIME, GOG INVESTIGATING ALTERNATE LONG TERM SOURCES FROM BOTH ALIAKMON RIVER AND VOLVI

LAKE OUTSIDE THESSALONIKI. LATTER PROJECT WILL
REQUIRE EXTENSIVE PURIFICATION SYSTEM AND OFFERS
POTENTIAL FOR US EXPORTS: HOWEVER, ARAVYSSOS AND AXIOS
SOURCES WILL MEET NEAR-TERM NEEDS AND ALIAKMON/VOLVI PROJECT
UNLIKELY TO BE STARTED PRIOR TO 1980. MICHAEL
ALSO NOTED THAT, GIVEN LONG TERM PLANS FOR
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT OF THESSALONIKI AREA,
PLANNERS THINKING IN TERMS OF EVENTUAL AREA
SUPPLY FROM ALL SOURCES OF ABOUT ONE MILLION
CU. METERS PER DAY. THIS GOAL, HE NOTED, IS
CONSIDERABLY HIGHER THAN CURRENT DAILY CONSUMPTION
OF ATHENS AREA WHICH IS APPROX 600,000 CU. METERS
PER DAY.
BRENNAN

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